

# Jade

## Young musicians are ready for their professional debut

By Loraine McClellan  
staff writer

**J**ADE GOT ITS start in any Farmington Hills basement that was available for a group of fourth graders about six summers ago.

The band wasn't called Jade at the time; it had a string of about 50 would-be names and the would-be musicians were playing as many mythical instruments.

Today the 14- and 15-year-olds make up the youngest band that has ever played at the largest county fair in Michigan.

Show time is 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, on the main stage at Allegan County Fairgrounds for Ken Downie, Todd Herlitz, Steve Harper, Derek Cronk and Chris David.

Before getting the booking Downie said Jade "had a following of about 12."

When Harper learned that Jade was going to be playing on the same stage as professionals who make their living going from fair to fair, he said, "I couldn't concentrate for the rest of the day."

But there won't be any stage fright or first-night jitters as Jade approaches its first professional engagement.

"The stage is a sanctuary, a place to be on. It's comfortable. We have an exchange of energy we get from

one another. We play better with one another than we do with anyone else, and all of us have had the opportunity to play with professionals," Harper said.

**D**OWNE IS Jade's guitarist. Herlite plays bass. Harper plays bass and David is on keyboard. Cronk is the lead singer, backed up on vocals by Downie and Harper.

Jade took shape when three of its members found themselves on the same Olympics of the Mind team at Dunkel Middle School in sixth grade. Jade's first original song was written when they were all in the eighth grade. They will all be entering 10th grade this fall at North Farmington High School.

"We brought out the musicians in our group and found ourselves in music," Downie said.

Harper calls Jade "the focal point of my entire existence. There's so many facets of thinking about being a career musician with 50,000 others scrumming to make it. It's an incredible challenge. But it's illogical not to try with all we've put into it and the sound we've made for ourselves."

To make their own original sound the musicians use the expression "Jaded." What the sound is jaded it comes out of.

Downie describes Jade's sound as "heavy, melodic hard rock with all the quirks that make us us."

"It's the sound we love to listen to — extremely progressive rock," he adds.

"We do not sound like any other band on the club scene," Harper said.

**H**ARPER IS Jade's producer and its electronic technician. Both Herlitz and Downie added that there is no leader of the group.

"Our forte is how well we work together, and if it weren't for that our music would come to a screeching halt," Downie said. "Everybody does what he does best."

Even writing songs is a group effort, no matter who is the originator. Harper said he was "obsessed with having lyrics have some meaning," but all original songs are worked over by all of its members until they are "jaded."

Jade will play some rock standards at the county fair along with some of its originals. Downie called "Everybody's Girl" Jade's masterpiece.

Other Jade titles are "Joker's Wild," "Rockin' in Detroit," "Volces," "Shattered Dreams" and "Caged Rebellon."

"And there is a lot more coming up," Downie said. "Working together is the best high there is for us. We spend about 90 percent of our time playing and thinking about music. Our goal is to one day play all originals."



The musicians who make up Jade are Derek Jade makes its professional debut in the large Downie, Todd Herlitz and Steve Harper.



### He fits the image

Marie Brogan of Brogan Kabet Advertising introduced Blair Underwood to some 100 Detroit lawyers after he had completed a commercial for Hudson's in Grace & Wild Film Studio in Farmington Hills. Underwood was chosen by Hudson's for the commercial because his role as Jonathan Rollins on NBC's "L.A. Law" fits the image that Hudson's wants to project for its male fashion customers.

The Living Science Foundation, in cooperation with the Farmington Community Center, will be offering Sea Camp, a hands-on science and nature day camp at the center from Aug. 22-26. The camp will meet from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$185 and reservations can be made in the center.

Sea camp offers children ages 5-11 the opportunity to explore the diversity of ocean life in their own hometown.

Participants will have encounters with sea stars, crabs, sharks, spiny lobsters, shells and anemone. Together, campers will look into the history of ocean life, discover how these animals eat, breathe and live in their watery habitat, and learn about ocean currents and how the ocean influences weather.

### Period costumes shown

A "Trunk Show of Period Costumes" displayed by Meadow Brook Theatre Guild will follow on Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Bonnie Brook Golf Club, Detroit. The event is sponsored by Children's Museum Friends and is chaired by Rigmor Coulahan of Northville.

Tickets are \$20 and can be obtained by calling the Children's Museum Friends office at 494-1223. A cash bar and raffle will also be part of the afternoon.

The Children's Museum is at 67 E. Kirby in Detroit's Cultural Center.

A camper-staff ratio of 8-to-1 ensures that all camp participants get plenty of individual guidance and attention.

Campers should wear comfortable indoor and outdoor clothing and bring a sack lunch. Snacks will be provided.

ALL ACTIVITIES are created and supervised by the trained science interpreters of the Living Science Foundation, a non-profit, non-governmental science education organization. Its in-school science presentations travel statewide to bring birds, animals, ocean life and astronomy presentations to elementary schoolchildren.

The Living Science Foundation works with the philosophy that direct personal experience is the best way to introduce children to the world of science and to encourage positive attitudes toward science learning.

For other information about Living Science Sea Camp, call Clara Lawrence at 477-8404. The center is on Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile in Farmington Hills.

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### Comedian is pulpit guest

Pat Hurley, who was resident comedian for ABC-TV's "Kids are People, Too!" will be the guest pulpit speaker at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28, in Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, 2126 Haggerty, Farmington.

Hurley won an Emmy for hosting

a Los Angeles talk show, "Teen Scene" and has performed in more than 800 high schools in the nation. He now works as a host and producer for WGN-TV in Chicago, specializing in family and youth programming.

Hurley was a host and producer

### Expectant parents' class

The Oakland County Health Division will offer a series of six expectant parent classes beginning at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, in the Southfield office of the Health Division, 27725 Greenfield Road.

Classes will be taught by public health nurses. There is no charge for

attending the series of classes, but pre-registration is necessary.

Topics will include maternal physical changes, good nutrition, growth and development of the fetus and the baby, labor and delivery, infant care and parenting.

To register, call 424-7042.

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